



Junior Year College Timeline

Fall:

- Stay on track with your classes and grades.** Meet with your School Counselor if you think you might need credit recovery.
- Make a list of colleges.** Learn about colleges by looking at their websites. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of each college. Make a list of the colleges that interest you.
- Attend college fairs, college nights, and representatives who visit MSHS.**
- Athletes** - If you want to play Division I or II sports in college be sure to start the certification process and make sure you are meeting the NCAA requirements.
- Work permit.** Don't forget to pick up a work permit if you get a job. Work permits can be picked up in the High School Office or the Guidance Office.

Winter:

- Stay involved in extracurricular activities.**
- Organize your college information.** Set up a system for keeping track of paperwork and correspondence from individual colleges.
- Begin narrowing down your college choices.** Make sure you have all of the information you need for each college (entrance requirements, tuition, room and board costs, course offerings, student activities, financial aid, etc.). Rank the colleges.
- Learn more about financial aid.** Talk to your family about financial resources for college. Gather information about financial aid from each of the schools you are interested in.

Spring:

- Start a scholarship search.**
- Get started on letters of recommendation.** Consider who you would like to ask to write a recommendation letter. Ask teachers who know you well. Letters from a coach, activity leader, or adult who knows you well outside of school are also good to have.
- Set up appointments with your top college choices.** Check out college websites to see when they are offering tours. Contact admissions offices to set up private appointments if needed.
- Take the SAT.** The SAT will be given during the school day in April.

Summer:

- ❑ **Visit colleges.** Take a tour and be sure to talk to someone from the admissions and financial aid offices.
- ❑ **Organize your financial aid information.** Start a list of financial aid options and what the requirements are for the application. Gather documents needed.
- ❑ **Get your FSA ID.** Before you can fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you will need to get an FSA ID. The FAFSA application opens October 1st.
- ❑ **Download applications.** Visit the website of each college admission office to find and download the application. Be sure to check for application deadlines.
- ❑ **Start working on your application essays.** Create rough drafts of the required essays. Have someone proofread your essays and then make any necessary corrections.

Helpful Resources:

- ❑ Big Future (College Board): Search for colleges, scholarships, and more!
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- ❑ FREE Scholarship Search Websites:
**Please remember to never pay to complete the FAFSA or to submit a scholarship application. If they are asking for a fee it is most likely a scam.

www.fastweb.com

<http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

<https://www.collegecovered.com>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships>

<https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/>

<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>